**Education for All Convention**

1241. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO's Global Monitoring Report predicts that India would fail to achieve the goals set under the Dakar Education for All convention;

(b) whether having spent 61% of the funds allocated the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, has not resolved the issues of inadequate school infrastructure, textbooks availability, teacher shortage and absenteeism; and

(c) Government's comments on the findings of the Global Monitoring Report of UNESCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) No, sir. UNESCO's Global Monitoring Report 2006 concludes that out of the six goals of Education for All, India is at risk of not achieving one goal of improving literacy by at least 50% by 2015. However, Government of India does not agree with this conclusion as it appears to be based on outdated data and does not take into account recent initiatives and programmes.

The goal of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme is to achieve universal elementary education by 2010 through incremental investments in the elementary education sector.

**Malnutrition in Maharashtra**

1242. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra is rated second in terms of malnutrition after Kalahandi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more than one lakh children die or are stillborn in a year in the State;

(d) if so, whether Government have appointed any committee to study child deaths in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures taken by Government to deal with the situation of malnutrition in the country with particular reference to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Malnutrition in children under 3 years, as per National Family Health Survey 2 (1998-99), is 54.4% in Orissa, 55.1% in Madhya Pradesh, 54.4% in Bihar, 51.7% in Uttar Pradesh, 50.6% in Rajasthan and 49.6% in Maharashtra.

(c) The Infant Mortality Rate in Maharashtra is 42 per thousand live births as compared to the national average of 60 and 83 in Orissa. Moreover, as per the information available from the State Government the number of deaths of children below 1 year was 20,927, between 1-6 years 7387 and stillbirths 11617 during 2004-05.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

(f) and (g) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and requires a multi-disciplinary action for its control. A number of interventions are being made by different sectors of the Government with a view to bring down malnutrition in the country. Some of these are as under:

* Integrated Child Development Services scheme
* Reproductive and Child Health Programme
    * Vitamin A Supplementation Programme
    * Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Programme
    * Universal Immunisation Programme
    * Diarrheoal Disease Control Programme
* Mid Day Meal Programme for primary school children
* Targetted Public Distribution System
    * Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls
    * National Rural Health Mission
* Integrated Management for Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI)

* Poverty Alleviation Programmes
* Food for Work Programmes
* National IDD Control Programme
* Kishori Shakti Yojana
* Nutrition Education Programmes of FNB
* Promotion of optional infant and young child feeding practices
* Antodaya Anna Yojana
* Public Health Measures-safedrinking water and sanitation

**Objection to NCERT books on History**

†1243. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about two dozens social organizations have raised serious objection over some portions of ancient and medieval India included in the books of NCERT prescribed for 11th standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to amend the constitution and pass the Protection of Culture Act to save ancient civilization and culture of the country and to constitute a National Commission for the Protection of Fundamental Rights of people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are considering to select historians at village and district levels as the members of the said commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The NCERT has intimated that till date since the reintroduction of the pre-2000 history textbooks from the academic session 2005-06, only 4 indviduals, claiming to represent social organizations, have written to NCERT, highlighting some objections to certain interpretations of historical facts mentioned in the NCERT's Ancient and Medieval India history textbooks for class XI. They are:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.